

Senate Resolution No. 19

Introduced by Senators Hancock and Blakeslee

Relative to the Joint BioEnergy Institute.

WHEREAS, The State of California has a long history of leading the nation and the world in energy conservation, development, and deployment of renewable energy technologies, and research and development into new environmentally sustainable energy technologies and practices; and

WHEREAS, As evidence of the state's commitment to renewable energy and its world class research, industrial and educational resources, the United States Department of Energy's Office of Biological and Environmental Research selected the Joint BioEnergy Institute in 2007 as one of three national bioenergy research centers that are focused on developing new processes, systems, and science for the production of cellulosic fuels as a significant replacement of petroleum-based energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Three national laboratories located in California, including the Sandia National Laboratories, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Carnegie Institution for Science, and the Berkeley and Davis campuses of the University of California are close collaborators in the Joint BioEnergy Institute; and

WHEREAS, The Joint BioEnergy Institute is focused on developing new methods of breaking down biomass and using microbes to efficiently convert biomass into advanced fuels that can be used directly with existing vehicles, and other transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The Joint BioEnergy Institute has demonstrated the effectiveness of bringing multiinstitutional and multidisciplinary research under one roof to greatly advance the development of new research strategies and the exploitation of novel scientific platforms, extending beyond the capability of any single organization, and has enabled experimentation using a systems biology approach that is leading to unprecedented findings; and

WHEREAS, The Joint BioEnergy Institute has already disclosed 82 inventions, filed 39 patents, has over 20 technologies in licensing negotiations, and is working in close collaboration with industry, including California-based energy and green technology companies; and

WHEREAS, Ultimately, research at the Joint BioEnergy Institute will launch an array of creative advances in science, medicine, and industry and help develop biology-based solutions to some of the nation's most critical energy problems, such as sustainable biology-based fuels and other products; and

WHEREAS, The Joint BioEnergy Institute's location in California at an epicenter of world class research institutions, leading green technology companies, energy companies, venture capital, and political support for renewable energy allows this facility to build upon the state's unsurpassed commitment to developing sustainable energy alternatives and conservation practices, and provides an ideal incubator for moving scientific advances from the laboratory to the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, No other single region of the world can match California's concentration of science and technology leadership, backed by business and entrepreneurial expertise and a tradition of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, The Joint BioEnergy Institute serves as an anchor of fundamental knowledge and capabilities that attracts and grows a cluster of new enterprises and opportunities, thereby further enhancing California's economy; and

WHEREAS, California's vibrant and aggressive venture capital community and intellectual property know-how is harnessing and commercializing the technological advances made at the Joint BioEnergy Institute in biotechnology, the life sciences, and energy technologies, helping to grow new California-based businesses and maintaining and enhancing California's scientific and economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, The Joint BioEnergy Institute well serves the citizens of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate extends its congratulations and commendations for an extremely successful and productive five years to the Joint BioEnergy Institute in furthering energy security and improved environmental stewardship of the planet to the Sandia National Laboratories, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the

Carnegie Institution for Science, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of California, Davis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the value, leadership, and service that the Joint BioEnergy Institute brings to California, and affirms its support for the Joint BioEnergy Institute in California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate encourages the United States Department of Energy to support the renewal of the Joint BioEnergy Institute, keeping in mind the unmatched scientific, academic, and business resources present in California that are helping to deliver a tremendous return on the federal government's investment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 19 read and adopted by the Senate September 8, 2011.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate